

Today on [Autoblog](#): Dave explains why GM has gone off the [deep end](#)



\$24.99 A Month

5 Minute Installation.

No Contracts. No Nerds. No Problem.

MAKE THE CONNECTION ▶

Unlimited calls to anywhere in the U.S. & Canada. Use your broadband hookup to save big money.

VONAGE

THE BROADBAND PHONE COMPANY*



Subscribe to Engadget: [SUB](#) [BLOGLINES](#)

Have great gadget news? [Let us know.](#)

Advertisement

The TETwalker and autonomous nanotechnology swarms

Posted Mar 31, 2005, 11:35 AM ET by Peter Rojas

Related entries: [Robots](#)

Ready for another [Mars robot](#)? No? Too bad. NASA scientists are working on a pyramid-like robot called the TETwalker (which stands for "tetrahedral walker") where each side of the pyramid is actually an expandable strut. There are no wheels, so to move around the each point on the tetrahedron sports an electric motor which can expand or contract the struts, raising the center of gravity of the bot just enough for it to topple over in the direction it wants to move. The TETwalker just repeats that action over and over again to get around. We're probably missing something, since this sounds like an incredibly inefficient way to make your way around Mars (how would you move uphill?), but the researchers working on this say the plan is to miniaturize the TETwalker and then have scores of them roaming the surface of Mars in "autonomous nanotechnology swarms", or ANTS (damn you scientists and your clever acronyms!), that can change shape to adapt to different circumstances and tasks.



[Read](#) 

[Permalink](#) | [Email this](#) | [Comments](#) [3]

Recent Entries

- » [The Engadget Interview: Jeremy Allaire, founder and president of Brightcove](#) (4/11/2005)
- » [Samsung bringing DMB to Germany](#) (4/11/2005)
- » [Yamaha's EC-02 electric scooter rocks the iPod](#) (4/11/2005)
- » [Wireless USB 1.0 set for May 15](#) (4/11/2005)
- » [Sanyo's fuel cell for IBM's ThinkPad](#) (4/11/2005)

(Add your comments)

Reader Comments

1. Posted Mar 31, 2005, 11:39 AM ET by Ryan gardner

Have an out of pocket experience.

The first multi-room digital music system is here.

Save \$200

on Introductory Bundle

Buy Now



SONOS

Advertisement

SPONSORED TEXT LINKS

With GoToMeeting, start saving tons of money and hours of time by [collaborating with clients](#) instantly!

Make all your calls over your high-speed Internet and save! Just \$14.99/month. <http://www.vonage.com>

[The Truth About Wireless Web & EVDO](#)
How To Internet @ 2000kbps across USA on [EVDO](#).
WIFI?: OBSOLETE!

IceRocket —
A new way to search.
www.IceRocket.com

[Access your PC remotely with GoToMyPC® - Try it Free](#)

[Get your own text link here.](#)

SEARCH

SECTIONS

- [Engadget Home](#)
- [Announcements](#)
- [Ask Engadget](#)
- [Cellphones](#)
- [Desktops](#)
- [Digital Cameras](#)
- [Displays](#)
- [Engadget](#)
- [Features](#)
- [Gaming](#)
- [GPS](#)
- [Handhelds](#)
- [HDTV](#)
- [Home Entertainment](#)
- [Household](#)
- [Interviews](#)
- [Laptops](#)
- [Media PCs](#)
- [Misc. Gadgets](#)
- [Peripherals](#)
- [Podcasts](#)
- [Portable Audio](#)
- [Portable Video](#)
- [Robots](#)

I'd be afraid of pissing off the martians with these mini-bots swarming over their planet. Beware the attack that is coming!

2. Posted Mar 31, 2005, 12:57 PM ET by t0dd

Here is a pretty cool concept video relating to TETwalker:

http://www.nasa.gov/mpg/111700main_tetwalker_animation_V_1.m...

and the page I got it from:

<http://www.nasa.gov/vision/universe/roboticexplorers/ants.ht...>

3. Posted Mar 31, 2005, 1:54 PM ET by lupinstel

I know it is a great buzzword, but where is the nanotechnology in this 2 foot tall robot? Using a small part, and then jamming it in a big clumsy robot does not make it nanotechnology.

Add your comments

Please keep your comments relevant to this blog entry: inappropriate or purely promotional comments may be removed. Email addresses are never displayed, but they are required to confirm your comments. To create a live link, simply type the URL (including http://) or email address and we will make it a live link for you. You can put up to 3 URLs in your comments. Line breaks and paragraphs are automatically converted — no need to use <p> or
 tags.

Your name (required):

Your email address (required, will not be shown to the public):

Your site's URL (optional):

Do you want us to remember your personal information for next time?

Yes No

Add your comments:

[Tablet PCs](#)

[Transportation](#)

[Wearables](#)

[Wireless](#)

RESOURCES

[About Engadget](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Advertise](#)

[Corrections?](#)

[Problems?](#)

ENGADGET EMAIL

Privacy: Your email address will be used for Engadget news only. *We hate spam too.*

RSS NEWSFEED



LINK TO ENGADGET



ARCHIVES

[Apr 2005](#)

[Mar 2005](#)

[Feb 2005](#)

[Jan 2005](#)

[Dec 2004](#)

[Nov 2004](#)

[Oct 2004](#)

[Sep 2004](#)

[Aug 2004](#)

[Jul 2004](#)

[Jun 2004](#)

[May 2004](#)

[Apr 2004](#)

[Mar 2004](#)

SPONSORS

If you're interested in advertising on Engadget, please [write us](#).

MOST COMMENTED ON (past 60 days)

[It's our birthday, and we're giving you the presents](#) (2114)

[Tell us your worst data disaster and win Memina's 2GB Pocket Rocket USB flash drive](#) (579)

[Sony PlayStation Portable/PSP hands-on review](#) (496)

[Bill Gates getting knighted](#) (241)

[Paris Hilton's hacked Sidekick releases unedited tell-all](#) (225)

[HOW-TO: Use your Gmail account as a personal file server](#) (213)

[HOW-TO: Get videos and DVDs onto your Sony PlayStation Portable \(PSP\) for free](#) (207)

[PSP vs. DS](#) (193)

[Dead pixel problems on new PSPs?](#) (173)

[How would you change the Sony PlayStation Portable?](#) (141)

[How would you change the Nintendo DS?](#) (118)

[Ask Engadget: Best home backup solutions?](#) (115)

[Ask Engadget: Non-fugly alarm clocks?](#) (106)

[The Fox Blocker](#) (105)

[Engadget turns one](#) (101)

WEBLOGS, INC. NETWORK

Consumer

[AdJab](#)

[Autoblog](#)

[Blogging Baby](#)

[Cinematical](#)

[Divester \(scuba\)](#)
[Engadget](#)
[Gadling](#)
[hack a day](#)
[Joystiq](#)
[Luxist](#)
[pPlayer \(poker\)](#)
[TV Squad](#)
[TUAW \(Apple\)](#)
Technology
[Apple \(Unofficial\)](#)
[CSS](#)
[Digital Photography](#)
[Flash Insider](#)
[Google \(Unofficial\)](#)
[Grid Computing](#)
[JavaScript](#)
[Microsoft \(Unofficial\)](#)
[Office](#)
[Open Source](#)
[Peer-to-Peer](#)
[Photoshop \(Unofficial\)](#)
[RSS](#)
[SAS \(Unofficial\)](#)
[Search Engine Marketing](#)
[Social Software](#)
[Spam](#)
[Tablet PCs](#)
[VoIP](#)
[Yahoo \(Unofficial\)](#)
Wireless
[BBHub \(BlackBerry\)](#)
[Bluetooth](#)
[Engadget: Cellphones](#)
[Engadget: GPS](#)
[RFID](#)
[Ultra Wideband](#)
[WiFi](#)
[The WiMAX Weblog](#)
[Engadget: Wireless](#)
[Wireless Dev](#)
[Wireless](#)
Video Games
[Blogging E3](#)
[Engadget: Gaming](#)
[Joystiq](#)
[Playstation 3](#)
[Video Games](#)
[Xbox 2](#)
Media & Entertainment
[Design](#)
[Digital Music](#)
[Documentary Film](#)
[Droxy \(Digital Radio\)](#)
[Independent Film](#)

[Magazine Design](#)
[Nanopublishing](#)
Business
[The Mortgages Weblog](#)
[Outsourcing](#)
[SCM Wire \(supply chain\)](#)

Life Sciences
[The Cancer Blog](#)
[The Diabetes Blog](#)
[Medical Informatics](#)
[Telemedicine](#)

Personal
[Brian Alvey](#)
[Jason Calacanis](#)
[Blog Maverick](#)
[Gordon Gould](#)
[Judith Meskill](#)

Events
[Blogging DEMO](#)
[Blogging E3](#)
[Blogging ETech](#)
[Future of Music](#)
[Blogging Milken](#)
[Blogging Sundance](#)
[Blogging Web 2.0](#)

Other
[Weblogs, Inc.](#)



All contents copyright © 2005, [Engadget, LLC](#). All rights reserved.
[Engadget](#) is a member of the [Weblogs, Inc. Network](#). [Privacy Policy](#)